

# THE CARTER VISIT

The Examiner Tuesday, September 7, 1980

## Carter compares tasks to those Truman had

By Lola Becker  
Of The Examiner

Unplanned by only two others — George Brett and Harry Truman — President Jimmy Carter today received an enthusiastic response from Jackson County, as his town meeting at Truman High School. The president, arriving at 10:30 a.m., was granted a standing ovation, but not one to compare with the applause given Brett when Carter said: "How many of you think George Brett will hit .400 this season?"

That question was preceded by an only slightly less enthusiastic response to Carter's first quotation: "How many of you think Harry Truman was a great president?"

All that, Carter, who was introduced by Senator Tom Eagleton, D-Missouri, launched into a brief comparison of Truman to himself.

"Our nation has seen tough challenges right now, both at home and abroad. Some of those challenges are similar to the ones our country faced in Harry Truman's time. Some are different. What is important to me about Truman is not so much the nature of his time as the nature of the task.

"President Truman had to make a lot of hard decisions. Not all of them were popular at the time. For those who criticized him temporarily unpopularity, he had a ready answer. He said, 'Any president who makes decisions that affect the well-being of our country on the basis of public opinion will not worthy to hold the office.'

"When I have to make a tough decision, I think about the tough decision Harry Truman had to make."

"From here to take a step that is not so popular, I think of the unpopularity Harry Truman had to suffer before he was finally vindicated."

"When I am criticized in the media, I think of the far worse criticism he had to endure."

"When I look at the public opinion polls, I recall what Truman said about those polls, not what he did in those polls. In 1948,"

Carter then proceeded to answer questions posed to him by 16 area residents.

When asked how he differed from his opponent, Carter pointed to the issue of defense spending. Carter

acknowledged both he and Reagan favor an increase in spending. However, he said the intent of the increased spending is "the most serious difference" between him and Reagan goals.

Carter said all presidents since Eisenhower have been strident in opposing a nuclear arms race. U.S.-U.S.S.R. Carter said Truman favored such a race, pointing out there would then be no reason for an Arms Limitation Treaty.

"Only if our nation is strong can we maintain peace," he said. "But this next weapon a nation can have is one that is never fired." He said he favors a slow, continual growth of arms in defense spending.

In response to another quotation, Carter said one of his top priorities in the next four years is to modernize the steel industry and related industries.

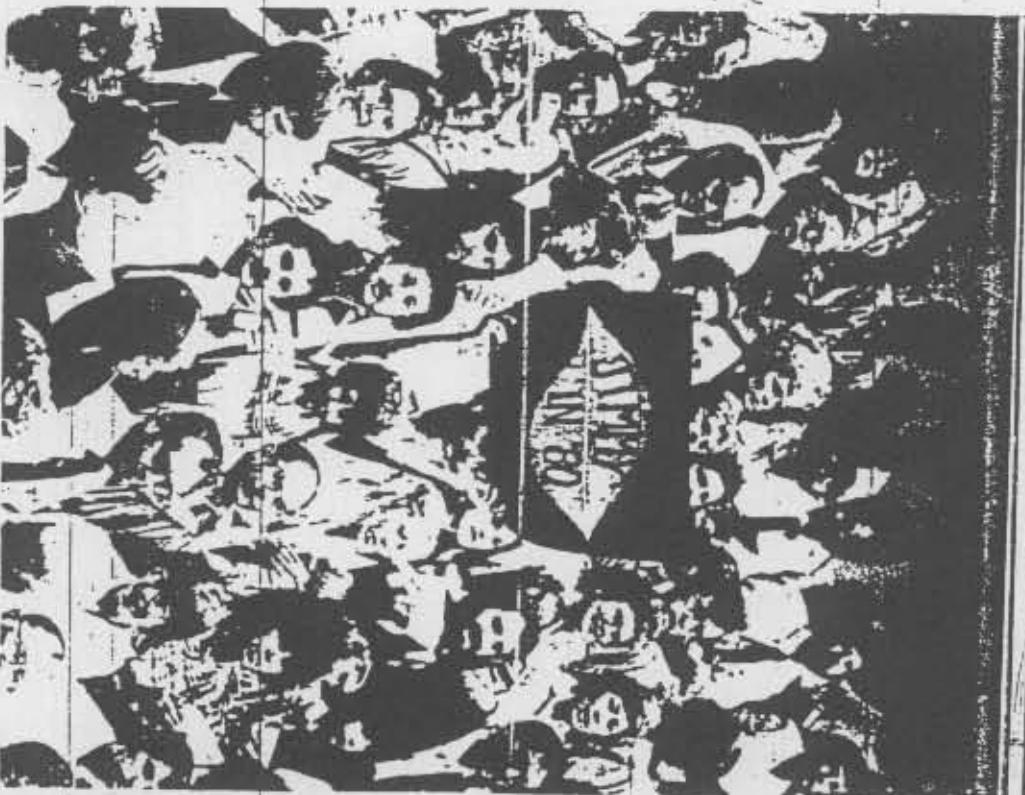
Pointing out American workers have the highest per capita productivity in the world, he said: "But we have to too long expected the American worker to continue to increase productivity without constant modernization of industrial machinery."

He said America must "take advantage of the energy crisis" by reuniting industry with the goal of energy conservation.

When asked if his spiritual life is a born again Christian who suffered since he was elected in 1976, Carter said: "I pray more now than I did before I was president because there are greater pressures on me now. I never let my beliefs interfere with my administration but I never feel any incongruity between being a Christian on one hand and the president of the United States on the other."

At 11:30 a.m., Carter closed the question-and-answer session by asking the audience for his "understanding and support" in his November election.

Once again quoting Truman, Carter's last statement was "It's not the land that starts the wars that build the destiny of America. It's the kind that reads the map."



There was plenty of pro-Carter sentiment in Mr. Carter's home town, which is the president and at your inauguration, then of a great president and with his friends the best. There was a great deal of enthusiasm and support for the president to know from his supporters that the future can do

## Questions cover U.S., foreign affairs, space exploration

By Charles Banks  
Of The Examiner

president proposal"

**3. Frank Ferguson, Kansas City:** "Welcome to the home

of

Mr.

Chung Kim, 1822 E. 4th St.: "Mr. President, I would

wish to invite the Secretary of State, of which I am a citizen, to

support

in November election."

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